



H.Res. 294 - Commending the Kingdom of Lesotho, on the occasion of International Women's Day, for the enactment of a law to improve the status of married women and ensure the access of married women to property rights

Floor Situation

H.Res. 294 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Diane Watson (D-CA) on March 29, 2007. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Services, considered under suspension of the rules and passed by unanimous consent.

The bill is expected to be considered on the floor on July 16, 2007.

Summary

H.Res. 294 supports the goals of International Women's Day, applauds the enactment of the Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act by the Kingdom of Lesotho, lauds the Kingdom of Lesotho for demonstrating its commitment to improve gender equity, encourages the Kingdom of Lesotho to continue its efforts to ensure gender equity, and commends the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) for developing and implementing policies to advance gender equity in the Kingdom of Lesotho and other countries eligible for financial assistance from the MCC.

Background

On March 8 of each year the Kingdom of Lesotho (a country near South Africa) celebrates the accomplishments of women and reaffirms their commitment to continue the struggle for equality, justice, and peace.

In November 2006, the Parliament of Lesotho passed the Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act. This law helped to improve the marital status of women, as well as ensure women would have property rights. Prior to passage of this law a married woman in Lesotho was considered a legal minor during the lifetime of her husband, was severely restricted in economic activities, was unable to enter into legally binding contracts without her husband's consent, and had no standing in civil court.

Lesotho has received assistance from the MCC and is working to promulgate a new gender policy to integrate gender equality into all phases of the development and

implementation of the Compact between the MCC and the Government of Lesotho.

Cost

This bill has not been scored by the Congressional Budget Office.

Staff Contact

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